

1956
WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH
WRECKED
22 AUG 1956

Abergele Urban District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

for the year 1956

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH

WILLIAM McKENDRICK, M.D., D.P.H.

which includes the

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FRANK EVANS, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Housing and Health Committee, 1956-57

Councillor JOHN JONES (Chairman).

Councillor S. WILMOTT (Vice-Chairman).

Councillors :

A. Brocklebank.	H. J. Manifold.
F. W. Bulkeley.	E. Emrys Morris
W. D. Davies.	Henry Parry.
J. W. Hand.	Hywel Parry.
Rev. H. Haynes.	John Parry.
D. E. Jones.	J. Ellis Williams.
P. Idwal Jones.	R. E. Williams.
R. H. Jones.	J. C. Winkup.

Staff of the Health Department, 1956-57

Medical Officer of Health :

Wm. McKENDRICK, M.D., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector :

FRANK EVANS, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Cert. Meat and Other Foods.

Cert. Smoke Inspection.

PENTRE MAWR,
ABERGELE.

18-6-57.

The Chairman and Members of the
Abergele U.D.C., Health Committee.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I present herewith the Annual Report on the health of the inhabitants of your area during 1956.

The report is in accord with the directions given in Circular 19/56 Wales in which the Minister of Health denotes the minimum requirements of the report.

The Vital Statistics show variations compatible with a non-industrial population—more elderly folk than children ; low birth rate and high death rate. But where numbers are small, the statistics are not very trustworthy.

There is little need for comment on the activities of the Health Department during the year. There has been the usual trying time with drainage and cleansing. Fortunately the new sewer in Kinmel Bay is nearing completion and connections will become effective in a few months.

The standard of caravanning rises. The licensees are so well established that they can afford to be "choosey." Any camper whose standards of hygiene or of conduct do not satisfy, is promptly expelled and replaced by a better. Thus, the industry in Abergele is climbing to better status.

The Council is well aware of some needed developments. For example, the sewer outfall is not at present satisfactory, but it will be repaired and made satisfactory as soon as the "credit squeeze" permits.

There are many housing problems—the difficulties of building in Kinmel Bay and in Abergele are unique—in one case the land is unsatisfactory ; in the other, the sewerage. The latter can and will be remedied and another hundred houses would be most beneficial.

I have once again to express appreciation of the work of Mr. Frank Evans, Public Health Inspector. His work grows—new duties are being added—e.g., the regulations dealing with Clean Food call for much detailed work ; the new Rent Act may be a very heavy burden on the Health Department. Mr. Evans only copes with this by efficient organisation of his time and by giving evenings to his task.

The Clerk and the Surveyor have also been most helpful.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

Wm. McKENDRICK,

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS

Area of district (acres)	7965
Population—Registrar General's Estimate (mid 1956) ...	7230
Census Population—1951	7539
Rateable Value	£102,831
Sum represented by a penny rate	£416/17/1

LIVE BIRTHS :

	Male	Female	Total
Total	38	45	83
Legitimate	33	43	76
Illegitimate	5	2	7
Birth Rate per 1,000 population :			
(a) Crude			11.4
(b) Corrected			12.6
Comparability figure for birth rate			1.11

STILL-BIRTHS :

Total	2	1	3
Legitimate	2	—	2
Illegitimate	0	1	1

Still-birth rate per 1,000 population : 0.41.

INFANT DEATHS :

(a) Under 1 year of age :

Total	3	1	4
Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	1	0	1

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 births : 48.

(b) Under 4 weeks of age :

Total (Legitimate)	2	1	3
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All were premature.

DEATHS	70	67	137
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Death rate per 1,000 population :

(a) Crude	18.9
(b) Corrected	15.2
Comparability figure for deaths	0.81

The following table shows the vital statistics for Abergele during the past seven years :

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Population	7575	7327	7186	7099	7160	7190	7230
Births	131	114	116	97	104	102	83
Live Birth Rate (Corrected)	17.6	15.7	15.5	15.4	15.5	15.6	12.6
Still-births	3	2	5	2	0	1	3
Still-birth rate	0.4	0.27	0.69	0.28	0.00	0.14	0.41
Infant deaths	5	3	2	3	2	4	4
Infant Mortality Rate	37.3	26.2	17	29	20.6	39	48
Deaths	121	118	99	102	104	105	137
Death rate (corrected)	15.9	12.7	11.2	11.9	8.8	10.9	15.2
Maternal Mortality Rate	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.3	0.0	0.0	0.0

This table shows that the slight increase in population estimated for 1955 has been increased and Abergele is now back at its 1951 numbers. There were 55 more deaths than births, so we depend entirely on immigrants for increase. During the previous six years, births exceeded deaths by 16 ; in 1956 births were 53 less than deaths. The birth rate was unusually low and the death rate unusually high. Moreover, 6 lives were lost within a few days before or after birth—this suggests deficient ante-natal care.

The ages at which deaths occurred were :

	Male	Female	Total
0— 1	3	1	4
1— 4	1	—	1
5— 9	—	—	—
10—14	—	—	—
15—24	—	—	—
25—34	—	—	—
35—44	1	3	4
45—54	3	3	6
55—64	18	5	23
65 and over	44	55	99

122 of the 137 persons were over 55 years of age when they died.

The following table shows the causes of death :

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis of lungs	1	2	3
Syphilitic disease	1	—	1
Cancer of stomach	3	1	4
Cancer of lungs	2	—	2
Cancer of breast	0	4	4
Cancer—other	3	5	8
Vascular lesions of nervous system	10	11	21
Coronary disease	21	12	33
Hypertension with heart disease	1	1	2
Other heart disease	3	11	14
Other circulatory disease	3	5	8
Influenza	1	1	2
Pneumonia	2	—	2
Bronchitis	—	3	3
Nephritis	1	—	1
Prostatic growth	2	—	2
Congenital malformation	—	1	1
Other causes	8	9	17
Accidents	7	1	8
Suicide	1	—	1

It will be noted that Coronary Thrombosis was the commonest cause of death. There were 33 such deaths in 1956—in 1955 there were 13 and in 1954 there were 23.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

1. BACTERIOLOGICAL :

The Public Health Laboratory at Bryn Hyfryd, Conway, has continued to examine and report on samples of water, milk, ice-cream, foods and sewage effluent. 97 specimens were submitted by the Public Health Inspector :

Water samples	32
Milk samples	19
Ice-cream samples	46

The very prompt and efficient reports received on these samples has enabled us to keep well informed on the purity of these items of human food and drink.

The help given by Dr. Kingsley Smith is not confined to mere reports, he also discusses with the Public Health Inspector and me the significance of reports and passes on to me suggestions prompted by findings from other areas.

Throat swabs, faeces, cerebro-spinal fluid, blood and urine samples are also sent to this laboratory by family doctors.

2. PATHOLOGICAL AND BIO-CHEMICAL.

Doctors may send to the Pathological Laboratories at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, or at the Colwyn Bay and West Denbighshire Hospital, any specimens that will help in the diagnosis or treatment of patients.

3. WATER.

Water is tested for bacterial purity at the Public Health Laboratory. This shows the existing state as far as bacterial contamination (or otherwise) is concerned. Frequent tests are required. As will be seen above, 32 tests were made during the year. Two samples from Glyn Lws Water were found to be below standard and adequate remedial measures were promptly taken.

Chemical tests are also made periodically—they are of less immediate value. They indicate a satisfactory state (or otherwise) of the collecting ground.

The Engineer has an instrument with which he can test the chlorine content of the water. This is used almost daily by him or his staff. The chlorine need of a water varies and he can, by testing, find the appropriate dose to overcome contamination without causing the water to be tasted of chlorine.

4. MILK AND OTHER FOODS :

Samples of milk are taken and examined by the County Public Health Officer at the farms and pasteurisation works. Other samples are taken at the point of delivery into the homes, by the Abergele Public Health Inspector. All are examined at the Public Health Laboratory.

The County Food and Drugs Inspector is responsible for taking samples of all foods and drugs sold in the area. These are analysed at the Assay Office, Chester.

Mr. Evans has given me the following report concerning samples taken in Abergele :—

Particulars of samples taken under the Food and Drugs Act in
ABERGELE URBAN DISTRICT during the year ended
31st December, 1956.

Article	No. taken	Not Genuine, or	
		Genuine	Sub-Standard
Milk	30	25	5
Double Cream	1	1	—
Ice Cream	2	2	—
Sausages	2	2	—
Beer	1	1	—
Calomel Tablets	1	1	—
Olive Oil	1	1	—
Totals	38	33	5

As will be observed from the above Table, thirty samples of milk were submitted to the Public Analyst from the Abergele Urban Area during the year and of this number five were certified to be below the standard for fat. Four of these “ Not Genuine ” samples were eliminated on “ Appeal to Cows ” samples being taken, and in the remaining instance, the deficiency in fat was very small and the vendor and the farmer concerned were visited and cautioned.

All other samples were certified by the Public Analyst to be genuine and free from all prohibited preservatives and colouring matter.

(Signed) THOS. H. EVANS,

Chief Inspector, County of Denbigh

17 Vicarage Hill,
Wrexham.

6th May, 1957.

There was one incident in which food poisoning occurred. I made full inquiries and satisfied myself as to the cause, which was removed.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES :

The County Council is responsible for the transport of those unable, for medical reasons, to travel to Hospital for treatment. The administration of this service in the Abergele area has been deputed to me. All requests must go through my office in Colwyn Bay. I have under my control 8 ambulances stationed at Abergele (1), Colwyn Bay (3), Denbigh (1), Llangerniew (1) and Llanrwst (1). There is one at the Colwyn Bay Isolation Hospital for the transport of infectious cases.

The Abergele ambulance has one paid full-time driver and sixteen volunteers who give a service that is becoming recognised throughout the County as not only efficient, but gentle and thoughtful. It is a service of which Abergele may well be proud.

NURSING IN THE HOME :

Two nurses reside in the district—they serve the Centre and Eastern part of the area. Another, resident at Llysfaen, serves the Llanddulas area. These nurses are employed by the County Council.

The Home Help Service is also provided by the County Council. Under this scheme, a woman is sent to help in the running of any home where the housekeeper is incapacitated by temporary illness. She may also be used to help aged and infirm folk who, without her aid, would require to be institutionalised. The service is administered from my office.

CLINICS :

Clinics are provided by the County Council. They are held as follows :—

1. Child Welfare :

Pentre Mawr, Abergele—Thursday, at 2 p.m.

Llanddulas, Beulah Schoolroom—alternate Mondays at 2 p.m.

2. Orthopaedic :

Colwyn Bay Clinic, Nant-y-Glyn Road—alternate Thursdays, at 11 a.m.

3. Ophthalmic :

As required. Appointments are made for an Ophthalmic Surgeon to attend at Colwyn Bay or Abergele Clinics.

4. Dental :

By appointment at Pentre Mawr, Abergele.

5. Tuberculosis :

Rhyl (ordinary clinic)—Fridays, 9 a.m. until noon, at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Rhyl.

Rhyl (refill clinic)—Fridays, at 2 p.m., at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Rhyl.

Colwyn Bay—at the West Denbighshire Hospital, Hesketh Road—1st and 3rd Thursdays, at 2 p.m.

DAY NURSERIES :

There are no Day Nurseries in the area.

TUBERCULOSIS :

It has not been necessary to take action against any person suffering from Tuberculosis who is engaged in the milk trade, nor to compel any person to go into a Sanatorium.

The following table shows the age distribution of new cases notified to me and of deaths from tuberculosis registered :—

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary M.	Pulmonary F.	Non-Pulmonary M.	Non-Pulmonary F.	Pulmonary M.	Pulmonary F.	Non-Pulmonary M.	Non-Pulmonary F.
0— 1	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— 4	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5— 9	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—14	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—19	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—24	...	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
25—34	...	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
35—44	...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—64	...	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and over	...	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Total ...	8	2	0	0	2	1	0	0

It is important to note that all cases notified during 1956 were over 20 years of age and that 3 were over 55 years of age. The old man with his cough—so-called “ bronchitis ”—is a menace to the community. He is the reservoir from which most new cases receive infection.

The state of the Register at the beginning and end of the year was :—

On Register 1/1/56		On Register 31/12/56	
Pulmonary—		Pulmonary—	
Male ...	37	Male ...	36
Female ...	19	Female ...	19
Non-Pulmonary—		Non-Pulmonary—	
Male ...	3	Male ...	4
Female ...	2	Female ...	2
Total ...	61	Total ...	61

Thus, ten names were added to the Register and ten removed—3 died, 6 removed from the district, and 1 was regarded as cured.

There is now an intensive effort in progress to fight tuberculosis. Contacts of cases are being searched out and skin tests, X-rays, etc., are being used freely.

It is an accepted practice that any person found to be suffering from tuberculosis should be kept under supervision for 5 years after all symptoms have ceased. Thus the numbers on the Register will probably grow for another two or three years, then the effect of our work should be reflected in the Register.

I would express my appreciation of the cordial co-operation shown by Dr. Morrison and his staff in this work.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES :

The following table shows the incidence of infectious disease in Abergele in 1955. There were no deaths except the three shown on the " Tuberculosis " table :—

Cases Notified	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and over.
Measles	42	1	21	19	1	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	10	—	8	2	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	3	—	—	—	—	2	1	—
Pneumonia	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	6	—	—	—	3	1	1	1
Scarlet Fever	8	—	2	6	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Poliomyelitis	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Totals	76	1	31	28	4	3	4	5

WATER :

Once again I am indebted to Mr. J. Round, A.M.I.C.E., A.M.I.W.E., Engineer and Manager to the Rhyl U.D.C. (Water Department) for a full statement on the water supply to the Eastern and Central parts of your district. The statement is as follows :—

" The Rhyl Water Undertaking's direct source of supply is a gathering ground in the Parish of Llanefydd. This gathering ground has an area of 900 acres and an average rainfall of 30.27 inches. The water is stored in two impounding reservoirs—Plas

Uchaf (storage capacity 50 million gallons) and Dolwen (38 million gallons). This source is supplemented, except during very wet periods, by pumping water from the River Aled into Plas Uchaf Reservoir. In dry weather, an adequate flow in the River Aled is maintained by releasing water from two other impounding reservoirs—Llyn Aled (375 million gallons) and Aled Isaf (270 million gallons), situated on the Denbigh Moors, near Llansannan.

The water is chlorinated at a dosage of about 1 part per million as it leaves Plas Uchaf Reservoir, and is treated at Glascoed Filter Station by pressure filters of the air scour type using sulphate of alumina as a coagulant and sodium carbonate for pH correction. 0.5 parts per million of chlorine are added after filtration for final sterilization of the water.

The annual rainfall for 1956 on the Llanefydd gathering ground was 30.98 inches compared with an average rainfall of 30.27 inches. The rainfall exceeded the average during three months only, but of these, July at 4.62 inches was nearly double the average and August at 8.66 inches was more than three times the average and the highest monthly rainfall ever recorded on this gathering ground."

Consumption of Water in Abergele (estimated) during 1956

	Total monthly consumption	Average daily consumption during month
January	11,534,000 gallons	372,000 gallons
February	11,620,000 "	401,000 "
March	11,773,000 "	380,000 "
April	10,551,000 "	352,000 "
May	11,959,000 "	386,000 "
June	12,314,000 "	411,000 "
July	14,382,000 "	464,000 "
August	14,834,000 "	479,000 "
September	12,091,000 "	403,000 "
October	10,649,000 "	344,000 "
November	9,855,000 "	329,000 "
December	9,913,000 "	320,000 "

Bacteriological Tests of Treated Water

Number sent to Public Health Laboratory, Conway	92
Number returned as Class 1 (Satisfactory)	92

Chemical Analysis

The following chemical analysis was made by the Counties Public Health Laboratories, London :—

Chemical results in parts per million

Appearance	Bright with a few mineral particles.
Turbidity	Less than 3.
Odour	Nil
Free Carbon Dioxide	3
Total Solids	115
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	35
Nitrate Nitrogen	0.6
Ammonical Nitrogen	0.013
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.041
Carbonate	35
Metals :	
Iron	0.15
Manganese	0.05
Other Metals	Absent
Colour	5
pH	7.1
Electric Conductivity	170
Chlorine present as Chloride	15
Hardness—Total	50
Nitrite Nitrogen	Less than 0.01
Oxygen Absorbed	0.90
Residual Chlorine	Absent
Non-carbonate	15

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from minute traces of iron and manganese. The water is soft in character and it contains no excess of salinity or mineral constituents in solution. It is free from noticeable colour and of very satisfactory organic quality.

From the aspect of the chemical analysis these results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

NEW WORKS :

No major works, affecting the supply to Abergele, were carried out during the year, but application was made to the Minister of Housing and Local Government for an order authorising the construction of a trunk main from the Rhyl Council's Denbigh Moors Reservoirs to its Llanefydd Reservoirs. This scheme which is expected to cost £170,000 will greatly increase the quantity of water available. It will also provide a better quality water than that at present pumped from the River Aled.

(Signed) J. ROUND,

Engineer and Manager.

The Llanddulas area is supplied mainly from Glyn Lws and is controlled by the Council's Engineer and Surveyor, Mr. G. V. Gethin. The following is a statement I have received from him, for which I am grateful :—

Following the dry Autumn of 1955 and the carrying out of work included in your Report for the year 1955 a comparatively mild and dry winter did not produce an abundance of water with the result that a fine spell in the early Spring of 1956 caused the inflow to Glyn Lws to considerably diminish. By the end of May the reservoir had ceased to overflow and the level began to drop. Pumping began on the 27th June and between that date and 4th July I estimate that approximately 200,000 gallons of water was obtained from the "lake" at Cilgoban. The fair weather broke on the 5th July with twelve hours of continuous heavy rain and by the 9th July the reservoir was once again overflowing.

As the summer progressed further rain fell in large quantity and there was no need for further action. No assistance from our neighbour was required.

It would appear that the work done in the early spring of 1956 at Cilgoban has provided a useful storage, and as and when staff and time are available I propose to examine very closely the possible yield from the springs at the head of the gathering ground. I also propose to carry out certain works which will cut out the need for pumping at Cilgoban and to carry out a very careful and detailed survey of the watercourses on the gathering grounds. I am of the opinion that with further reasonable expenditure additional storage can be provided with the consent and goodwill of the landowners in the catchment areas.

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1956**

TABLE 1**General Statistics**

No. of complaints received and attended to	101
No. of inspections for detection of nuisances	247
No. of re-visits in connection with nuisances	86
No. of nuisances abated	78
No. of nuisances not abated but work in hand	12
No. of Informal Notices served for the abatement of nuisances	76
No. of Formal Notices served for the abatement of nuisances	Nil
No. of visits re Moveable Dwellings and Camping Sites	137
No. of inquiries re Infectious Diseases	8
No. of visits re Slaughterhouse	372
No. of visits to premises where food is prepared and sold ...	56
No. of visits to Ice Cream Shops	65
No. of samples taken of Ice Cream	46
No. of visits re Milk Control	41
No. of samples taken of Milk Supply	19
No. of visits re Water Supply	45
No. of Water Samples taken	30
No. of visits re Rodent Control	17
No. of Inspections of Factories	15
No. of Miscellaneous visits	125
No. of interviews	233
No. of visits re Shops Acts	14
No. of visits re Refuse and Salvage	51
No. of Investigations re Housing Applications	171

TABLE II**Sanitary Defects**

No. of defective or choked drains	17
No. of defective W.C. accommodation and Sanitary Fittings	7
No. of defects in water supply fittings	3
No. of defective pails or absence of pails	2
No. of dilapidated refuse bins or absence of refuse bins	34
No. of defective roofs or chimney stacks	10
No. of defective rainwater fittings	5
No. of damp conditions of houses	7
No. of miscellaneous nuisances	19

TABLE III

Housing Statistics

1.	Inspection of dwellings during the year.	
	(a) Total number of dwellings inspected for Housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) ...	58
	(b) Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	20
	(c) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of that referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	33
2.	Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices.	
	Number of Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence of Informal Action	33
3.	Action under Statutory Powers during the year.	
	Number of houses in respect of which Formal Notices under the Public Health Act, 1936, were served	Nil
4.	Demolition as a result of informal action.	
	Number of individually unfit houses demolished by the owners	3
5.	Number of premises demolished as a result of formal action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936	1
6.	Number of houses closed as a result of formal action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, and Section 10 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953	4
7.	Number of houses closed as a result of informal action ...	5
8.	Number of Certificates of Disrepair issued under Section 26 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954	Nil
9.	Number of houses in respect of which grants were made under the Housing Act, 1949, and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954	4

HOUSING

The provision of an adequate number of sound houses, complete with the modern amenities which are now accepted as being essential, to enable every family to be suitably housed is the ideal at which we must aim.

It is estimated that there are two thousand four hundred and ninety-six houses in the urban area which accommodates a total population of about seven thousand two hundred and thirty. This represents an average of three persons per house and suggests that from an overall standpoint there is no overcrowding. The facts are, of course, that a number of houses are under-occupied, while on the other hand, quite a number of houses are let off into rooms, and these houses contain several families. The conditions obtaining in these "sub-let" houses vary considerably.

I estimate that at least one hundred houses and bungalows are used for holiday purposes only. The majority of these premises are unoccupied during the winter months, while a minority are occupied as "winter-lets," the tenants having agreed to vacate the premises when the holiday season arrives.

It is accepted that there are about one hundred and fifty houses which are unfit in the whole of the urban area. About one hundred of these are situated in blocks and are suitable for demolition by Clearance Area procedure. The remaining unfit houses are in small units or are single houses. In such cases the problem is, perhaps, more complex as a variety of factors may have to be considered; and the single factor of finance may decide in favour of demolition or of a scheme of re-conditioning.

The Council's proposals to deal with one hundred and ten unfit houses within a five year period cannot be implemented until houses can be provided for the families to be displaced. It is known that the Council's programme for building houses on the Maes Canol Estate is delayed owing to sewerage difficulties, and it is hoped that these difficulties will soon be overcome. A slum clearance Sub-Committee has now been appointed by the Council.

During the year, however, a number of individually unfit houses were dealt with, four being demolished and five being closed. In one other case an undertaking was accepted that the structure be used as a garage. These ten cases comprised a variety of dwellings including old cottages and sub standard hut type dwellings.

Although actual progress with slum clearance cannot be recorded, the unfortunate circumstances under which the occupiers of slum houses have to live, have not been overlooked by the Council's Housing Selection Committee, and whenever possible a house

has been allocated to such a family. The application of this policy has so far resulted in one case of a block of sixteen houses now containing only six occupied houses.

It may appear to be a little illogical to be considering new slum clearance schemes when, in fact, eight families are still housed in premises which were included in Clearance Areas, the Orders for which were confirmed over twenty years ago. Two years ago there were fourteen such cases. The families have been accommodated in Council Houses and of course the premises vacated have not been re-let.

Before embarking upon a house building scheme to accommodate the persons to be displaced from slum houses, it is essential that the Council should be aware of the number of persons and the types of family units which are involved. A recent survey showed that out of ninety-eight such houses, forty-three were occupied by an old-age pensioner, an elderly couple, or other units of one or two persons only.

It appears desirable to consider the existing Council house tenancies, and the Register of Applicants for Council houses, in conjunction with the needs of Slum Clearance families, before reaching a final decision as to the type and size of house to be built. At least twenty of the Council houses are occupied by one person only and there are about forty cases on the Register of Applicants where the unit is one or two persons only. The Ministry encourages schemes of indirect re-housing methods connected with Slum Clearance, thus supporting the idea of a comprehensive housing programme.

The housing needs of the aged create special problems, and interest in this matter has been shown by the Council.

The absence of house building creates a very difficult situation for the Council's Housing Selection Committee, when many very deserving cases have to be considered and only one house is available. A "Points" System Scheme was introduced to help this Committee in its task, but of course it must be appreciated that such a scheme cannot do more than compare in a general, but reliable, manner, the needs of the various applicants. Although circumstances arise which cannot be provided for in such a scheme of points, it is essential that each applicant should feel that his case is being fairly considered.

It is pleasing to report on the co-operation of the Surveyor's Department in dealing, under Bye-law Powers, with new cases of unsatisfactory houses. Cases of the conversions of houses into flats, of conversions of garages, and of the erection of temporary structures, all unauthorised, have been dealt with in this manner.

The repair of privately-owned houses is a task which still presents many difficulties and recent legislation does not appear to have eased this problem.

The Council wisely continues its policy of making grants under the Housing Act, 1949, in respect of improvements, and during the year four schemes were completed. In three cases modern amenities were introduced into structurally sound houses, while in the fourth case a first-floor flat was made out of the rooms above a shop. This type of work gives considerable satisfaction and results in a standard of accommodation comparable with that of a new council house, but at considerably less cost.

CARAVAN AND CAMPING SITES

In local government circles throughout England and Wales, the name of Abergele is immediately connected with Caravans and Camping Sites.

A total of over six thousand caravans sited on about two hundred and fifty acres of land, ideally situated for the purpose, provide many thousands of people from industrial Lancashire, the Potteries and the Midlands, with an annual summer holiday.

The camping sites themselves vary considerably from small sites with only a handful of caravans, to large sites accommodating several hundred caravans. The larger sites are provided with shops, recreation facilities, including a cinema, clubs, cafes and concert hall, ballrooms and snack bars, enquiry offices, stores and other amenities considered desirable in the interests of the holiday-makers.

This flourishing industry carries a total rating assessment of twenty-three thousand pounds, and a peak population of over thirty thousand. It will be appreciated that to cater for such an influx of people means a heavy burden for quite a lot of people, not forgetting the Council's share in disposing of wastes—refuse and sewage. If these essential services did not function at least reasonably efficiently, the result would be chaotic.

The explanation for the presence of this feature of holiday development in this area is, I suggest, due to three main factors, viz., the presence of an abundance of suitable sites in an area with an attractive coastline and hinterland; the proximity and ease of access to large centres of population in industrial areas, and the freedom found in the caravan type of holiday.

The camping industry has grown rapidly during the last few years, and it shows no signs at present of diminishing. The Council welcome the existence of the Camp Owners' Association, as such a body can do much to promote a high standard of camping. There is undoubtedly a considerable improvement to be seen on many camping sites. Unsatisfactory and obsolete types of vans are disappearing and site lay-outs are improving. This improvement is continuous and its achievement in some cases denotes a certain amount of determination to pursue what is obviously the right policy, but one which must sometimes cause individual hardship.

During the year only one new site, an acre and a quarter in extent, was licensed. This site had in fact been used some years ago by a previous occupier. In three other cases owing to a change of occupier, new licences were issued in respect of existing sites. Fifty site licences are now in being.

From an administrative point of view, the unauthorised use of land for caravans and camping presents a very difficult problem. During the last holiday season a number of small sites were used, and camping was even present on foreshore land.

Whenever it is practicable, co-operation with the Planning Authority is maintained on camping problems. A number of appeals against the Planning Authority's refusal to permit camping were heard and two recent decisions have been received. In one case the appeal was dismissed as it was considered that camping development on the site in question would be detrimental to the amenities of the Llanddulas sea-front area. In a second case, consent was given for a period of six years. This applied to a site in Towyn which is situated in the Camping Zone as defined by the Planning Authority. It was proposed to reserve this site and all other undeveloped sites within the Camping Zone for "de-congestion" and "re-location" of overcrowded sites. The period of six years was fixed, presumably, to enable the County Planning Authority to have time to arrive at a policy for dealing with the matter. In another case, it is hoped that early enforcement action will be taken by the Planning Authority to terminate the unauthorised use of a site in the Kinnel Bay area.

A number of fields are used for short periods for the "tented" type of camp. Organised units, such as Boy Scouts, Boys' Brigades and School Parties, and the like, come for periods of two to four weeks and invariably a good standard of camping is maintained. Some sites are brought into use for short periods by people bringing their own small tents. In some cases too many tents are accommodated and too little provision is made for the needs of the campers. The powers of control over this type of camping are not adequate and unsatisfactory and undesirable conditions can prevail for a short period. The co-operation of all concerned is sought in this matter.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Since the last Annual Report was written considerable progress has been made with the constructional works connected with the Kinnel Bay and Towyn Sewerage Scheme.

The work on the sea outfall and main pumping station is virtually complete and many of the sewers in the Kinnel Bay area have been laid. A number of subsidiary pumping stations and ejector stations are at an advanced stage of construction, and it is hoped that the laying of the sewers in the Towyn area will soon be commenced.

The problems and difficulties associated with property connections to new sewers are at present engaging the attention of the Council and its Officers.

Until this Sewerage Scheme can be brought into operation, the existing most unsatisfactory condition of sewage disposal arrangements which exist in the Kinnel Bay and Towyn areas will have to be tolerated.

It is very disappointing to report on the absence of tangible progress in connection with the improvement to the Abergele and Pensarn Sewerage Scheme. The keenest disappointment is perhaps felt by the applicants for Council houses to be erected on the Maes Canol Estate, as the house-building scheme cannot be continued until some definite progress is made with this sewerage scheme.

Once again on the grounds of economy a sewerage scheme for the village of St. George had to be postponed. It is, however, pleasing to report that actual construction work on a scheme for the school is in progress. It is difficult to obtain improvement in housing conditions in the village unless a sewerage scheme can be provided.

It is advisable that consideration be given to the situation in the Llanddulas Quarries area where conditions obtaining at neighbouring premises differ so much.

There is no change to report on the conditions obtaining in the remaining parts of the urban area.

RODENT CONTROL

An unceasing check on the condition of the urban area with regard to infestation by rats and mice is maintained by the Council's part-time Rodent Operator. This person is engaged whole-time on these duties as he also serves the Aled Rural District Council. The Scheme for this joint operation has again proved very satisfactory throughout the year. The Council's own properties, including the sewers and the refuse tip, are treated regularly and whenever the need arises.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

Smoke nuisances are not a public health problem in this area. There are a small number of industrial solid-fuel burning appliances in the area which have, as usual, been operated without giving cause for complaint.

FACTORIES

The statutory return under the Factories Act reveals that there are nine non-power and twenty-three power factories in the urban area.

In two cases, Certificates were issued under Section 34 of the Factories Act, 1937 in respect of the means of escape in case of fire. The co-operation of the Denbighshire and Montgomeryshire Joint Fire Service in making available the assistance and advice of their Fire Protection Officer is acknowledged.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in Respect of the Year 1956 for the Urban District of Abergele in the County of Denbigh.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

Part 1 of the Act

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of		M/c line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	9	3	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	23	12	—	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	—	—	—	3
Total		32	15	—	—

2.—Cases in which Defects were found.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases.")

Particulars (1)	M/c line No.	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/c line No.
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	—	—	—	—	—	4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7	—	—	—	—	—	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8	—	—	—	—	—	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—							
(a) Insufficient	9	—	—	—	—	—	9
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	—	—	—	—	—	10
(c) Not separate for sexes	11	—	—	—	—	—	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	12	2	2	—	—	—	12
Total	60	2	2	—	—	—	60

Part VIII of the Act. Outwork.

(Sections 110 and 111)

No person was on the Register of Outworkers.

SHOPS ACT ADMINISTRATION

It was not found necessary during the year to take proceedings under the Shops Act, 1950. The conditions which prevail during the holiday season create a number of difficult administrative problems, particularly in connection with Sunday Trading.

FOOD INSPECTION

Throughout the year the complete inspection of meat at the slaughterhouse was maintained, every carcase being inspected. A total of thirteen thousand two hundred and sixty-three animals were slaughtered, which is a very similar number to the previous year. It is inevitable, owing to established local trade practices and the limitations of the Public Health Meat Regulations, that some inspection duties have regularly to be carried out outside normal office hours. The details of the numbers of animals inspected and of the amount of meat found to be diseased are to be found in the table which follows.

There is one very striking feature in connection with the amount of diseased meat which was discovered by routine inspection. The percentage of bovine animals affected with tuberculosis was only one half as much as the previous year. This great reduction in the incidence of this disease as found in the slaughterhouse is no doubt due to the drive being made in the County to secure herds of tubercle-free cattle.

The total weight of meat condemned as unfit for food represents a very small percentage of the total weight of meat handled, indicating a satisfactorily high standard in the quality and healthy condition of the animals. The ready assistance and co-operation of the slaughtermen was again of much assistance in carrying out meat inspection duties.

The control of milk supplies is a duty requiring careful performance. Abergele Urban Area is within a "Specified Area" in which "Specially Designated" Milk only may be sold. This limitation is most desirable from the public health standpoint. It does, however, involve the issuing of considerable numbers of annual licences, and in all cases certain investigations are necessary.

During the year nineteen samples of milk were collected, consisting of nine samples of pasteurised milk, one sample of sterilised milk, and nine samples of tuberculin tested milk. These samples were submitted for the prescribed statutory tests and all were found to be satisfactory.

Six samples of milk which is retailed in the raw state were submitted for biological examination for the presence of tubercle and brucella organisms. It is pleasing to report that in all cases negative results were obtained.

The usual routine sampling of ice cream was again carried out during the summer months and a total of forty-six samples were submitted for laboratory examination. The bacteriological grading of these samples was as follows :—

Grade 1 28 samples

Grade 2 11 samples.

Grade 3 2 samples.

Grade 4 5 samples.

These results show an improvement over the previous year, but of course it is desirable that no results should fall into grades 3 and 4. Investigation into these cases revealed that they were of unwrapped ice cream and that faults in the sterilising of equipment were responsible.

The periodic sampling of the public water supplies was carried out, thirty samples being collected from the Council's Glyn Lws Supply and one from the Rhyl U.D.C. supply. Except for two samples from the Glyn Lws Supply all samples attained the highest standard of bacteriological purity. The case of the two samples which showed slight bacteriological contamination occurred when a temporary breakdown in the chlorination pump coincided with a period of very heavy rainfall. This lapse was of very short duration, and the results of the samples indicate the constant attention and vigilance of those responsible for the water supply.

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	1016	38	230	10513	1466	Nil
Number inspected *	1016	38	230	10513	1466	Nil
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.						
Whole carcasses con- demned	—	1	2	14	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	248	15	—	2	8	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysti- cerci	24%	42%	1%	0.1%	0.6%	—
Tuberculosis only.						
Whole carcass con- demned	1	1	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part of organ was con- demned	27	3	—	—	46	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	2.7%	10.5%	—	—	3.1%	—
Cysticercosis.						
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	8	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigera- tion	8	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

DETAILS OF MEAT CONDEMNED AT THE ABATTOIR

BEEF :

(a) Complete Carcasses :

1 Ox—Generalised Tuberculosis	620 lbs.
1 Cow—Generalised Tuberculosis	560 lbs.
1 Cow—Other Diseases	480 lbs.

(b) Part Carcase and Organs :

3 Cows—Localised Tuberculosis	66 lbs.
15 Cows—Other Diseases	230 lbs.
27 Oxen—Localised Tuberculosis	594 lbs.
248 Oxen—Other Diseases	3772 lbs.

PORK :

Part Carcase and Organs :

46 parts—Localised Tuberculosis	652 lbs.
8 parts—Other Diseases	44 lbs.

VEAL :

2 Complete Calf Carcases—Non-Tubercular Disease	75 lbs.
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MUTTON AND LAMB :

14 Complete Sheep Carcases	592 lbs.
2 Part Carcases and Organs	34 lbs.
(All non-tubercular conditions)	

Total Weight Condemned 3 tons, 8 cwts., 3 qrs., 19 lbs.**OTHER FOOD CONDEMNED**

Canned Fish	14 lbs.
Canned Fruit	626 lbs.
Canned Vegetables	558 lbs.
Canned Milk	273 lbs.
Canned Meat	567 lbs.
Canned Soup	178 lbs.
Cheese	6 lbs.
Cake	12 lbs.
Chicklettes	14 lbs.

Total weight condemned	1 ton 8 lbs.
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REFUSE AND SALVAGE

The manner in which the service of refuse collection is discharged is subject to close personal observation from the occupiers of properties, as no other Council service brings Council employees into such direct contact with the ratepayers. Broadly speaking, few complaints were received during the year. During the summer season, owing to the heavy influx of holiday-makers on the camping sites, a very heavy burden is placed on the workmen. An extra collection vehicle is used during this period but no extra workmen are available. Under these conditions the ideal standard of refuse collection cannot be attained, but it is claimed that the best practicable service is given. The workmen in this service take their annual holidays outside the normal holiday periods, and for a few weeks at the peak of the season long hours of work must be undertaken in order to cope with the problem.

The disposal of refuse is a branch of the service which is less familiar to the average ratepayer. For many years now, refuse has been disposed of on foreshore land near to Beach House, Llandulas. The advantages and disadvantages of this site have been

the subject of frequent discussions in committee meetings. Generally speaking, provided the refuse can be disposed of without being the cause of complaint, a feeling akin to relief is felt. It is, however, not an easy task to maintain satisfactory conditions at the point of refuse disposal. The numerous difficult features connected with the site itself, and also with regard to our "summer" refuse, are known.

During the year consideration was given to the question of an alternative site for refuse disposal. The factors to be considered in the selection of a site include suitability of position, access, availability and the future or ultimate use to which the site could be put on completion of refuse disposal operations. Invariably, objection is received when a new site is under consideration. Faced with these problems, I advised the Committee that the employment of mechanical aids might well be the solution. Not only could the useful life of the site for disposal purposes be extended for a considerable number of years, but also it would relieve the physical strain on workmen and enable a higher standard of disposal to be obtained.

The Committee was in agreement with my recommendations and we were fortunate, in December, in purchasing from the Rhyl Council a machine called the Bristol MR 20 Angle Dozer. There is every indication that as the new technique of disposal is perfected, the Committee's decision will be shown to have been correct.

Over one hundred and twenty-two tons of materials were salvaged from the refuse and sold for the sum of £970/19/9 during the financial year ended 31st March, 1957. The details are as follows :—

Type	Weight				Value		
	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.		£	s	d
Mixed Paper	111	18	0	...	897	15	10
Metals	8	2	1	...	38	8	0
Rags	2	10	3	...	34	15	11
Total	122	11	0	...	970	19	9

This shows an increase in weight of five tons over the previous year, but on account of changed market values a slight reduction in value, amounting to £9.

During the year, on account of heavy stocks of baled waste paper at the Board Mills a limitation on our deliveries to the Mills was imposed. If such a limitation had been absent, a further quantity of about 14 tons, value approximately £110, would have been added to the total.

Such a gross income is an important contribution to the total cost of the refuse service.

I would conclude this report by again expressing appreciation of the manner in which the workmen have discharged their duties under the able direction of the Foreman,

